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The Honorable Forbes Burnham, Prime Minister
Republic of Guyana
Public Buildings Brickdam
Georgetown, Guyana

Dear Prime Minister Burnham:

I appreciate this opportunity to direct your attention to the work of the People's Temple of San Francisco. At the request of Gene Chaiken, Legal Counsel for the Temple, I thought it appropriate to extend my personal appraisal to you of the work they do here in San Francisco so that it may add to their credibility in their efforts in your own country.

As a matter of introduction, I am a past president of the Bar Association of San Francisco (1975), a professor of law at Hastings College of the Law and Consultant to the Dean at that school. I am a lawyer in active private practice. I do not belong to People's Temple and my only contact with them has been as a result of our shared interests in a variety of community projects in this city.

I have had an opportunity to meet and talk at length with Reverend Jim Jones, examined fully the services and programs of the People's Temple and know their reputation in this community in a variety of sources.

In all respects, the People's Temple makes a major contribution to the social wellbeing of this city, particularly among the disadvantaged, minorities and disabled within our community. Those individuals who often find it difficult to assemble support for their position as they seek to obtain lawful and appropriate rights from our society find a strong and giving ally in Reverend Jim Jones and those with whom he works.

In any community such as ours, there are bound to be those who express concern, and even disapproval, of the work performed by the People's Temple. By and large, I am forced to conclude that most, if not all, of those who criticize the work of the People's Temple do so from a vantage point of ignorance and without a full understanding of the major social objectives and significant daily contributions made by the Temple to the personal lives of thousands of individuals living in our city.

I prefer to believe that if they had a full opportunity to understand the work being done that it would allay their suspicions and put their fears to rest.

While I do not have personal contact with the work being done in your Republic by the People's Temple, I have had it fully described to me and most certainly believe in both the concept and the realization which appears to be a daily event. Projects designed to provide a new life for people without hope demand our full support, yet seldom receive

it from the established governmental facilities.

You are to be congratulated and emulated in your contribution with the People's Temple to convert hopeless lives into persons of contribution and significance.

If I can provide any additional information to you at any time, please don't hesitate to let me know. Best regards.

Very truly yours,

e. robert (bob) wallach

erw/bk